

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-14 L-02 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4551

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5539

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MX

SUBJECT: INS DEPORTATION OF MEXICAN ILLEGALS

REF A. MEXICO 5321, B. MEXICO 5463

1. MAJOR MEXICAN DAILIES ON APRIL 30 CARRIED (IN SOME CASES HEADLINE) AP STORY REPEATING STATEMENT BY INS SPOKESMAN VERNE JERVIS ON THIS SUBJECT. STATEMENT REPORTEDLY INDICATES THAT INS PLANS TWENTY-WEEK PROGRAM TO RETURN DETAINED MEXICAN ILLEGALS TO THE INTERIOR OF MEXICO. JERVIS QUOTED AS SAYING CONTRACT GIVEN TO CARDINAL AIRLINES (SEE REF A) "ON CONDITION THAT CARDINAL OBTAIN LANDING RIGHTS". JERVIS NOTED THAT CARDINAL THUS FAR UNSUCCESSFUL BUT THAT "NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE". STORY FURTHER INDICATES THAT PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE FINGERPRINT-ING ILLEGALS RETURNED TO INTERIOR IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE REPATRIATES AGAIN SEEK TO ENTER THE U.S. ILLEGALLY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND, IN FACT, THAT CARDINAL PRESIDENT PRENDERGAST FAILED TO OBTAIN LANDING RIGHTS, HAS RETURNED
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TO THE U.S., AND HAS LOST INS CONTRACT. WE FURTHER

UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT ROSENBAUM AVIATION NOW HAS

CONTRACT AND THAT A MR. ROSENBAUM MAY COME TO MEXICO WITH SAME OBJECTIVE AS PRENDERGAST. WE UNDERSTAND ROSENBAUM HAS LANDING RIGHTS AT PRESENT BUT THAT THESE COVER ONLY TRANSPORTATION OF MERCHANDISE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY MUST REITERATE AND EMPHASIZE MISGIVINGS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS OVER MANNER IN WHICH ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS PROGRAM, HOWEVER WORTHY, IS BEING CONDUCTED. DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF DELICACY OF THIS AREA IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRENDERGAST ADMITTED TO POL COUNSELOR THAT HE HAD ON GOOD AUTHORITY INFORMATION THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF HAD RULED AGAINST GRANTING LANDING RIGHTS. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT AMB. GONZALEZ DE LEON GAVE SIMILAR INFORMATION TO INS REPRESENTATIVE FOLLOWING RECENT MEETING IN ILLEGALS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION FIRMS, CLEARLY WITH ACQUIESCENCE, IF NOT ENCOURAGEMENT, FROM INS TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROGRAM AT THIS TIME.

4. EXTENSIVE MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM, WITH IMPLICATION THAT GOM IS BLOCKING POSSIBLE BENEFIT TO REPATRIATED ILLEGALS (I.E. BY PREVENTING REPATRIATION TO POINTS NEAR THEIR HOMES) IS SURE TO BE RESENTED BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS. AND THEIR IRE WILL NATURALLY BE DIRECTED TOWARD US AS CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR THIS PROGRAM.

5. EMBASSY MUST AGAIN REQUEST ASAP CLARIFICATION AND EXPLANATION OF THIS SUBJECT (REFTELS). WE MUST ALSO AGAIN RECOMMEND DESIRABILITY OF DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CHANNELS RATHER THAN THROUGH EFFORTS OF WOULD-BE PRIVATE CONTRACTORS OVER WHOM WE HAVE NO CONTROL AND FOR WHOM WE CAN ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY.
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